

[52433/682]

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of Masakazu SUGIMOTO, et al.

Serial No. Not Yet Assigned

Filing Date Herewith

Title JOINING STRUCTURE

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the title:

--(Amended) JOINING STRUCTURE --

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 4, and 6-8 without prejudice.

Please add the following new claims:

10. (New) A joining structure according to claim 2, characterized by bending one or both ends of each tabular member to the extent that each bent end is formed at a right angle to the direction of the principal stress.
11. (New) A joining structure according to claim 1, wherein the structural member has a coupling flange or a base plate, and one or more tabular members are disposed between the structural member and the coupling flange or base plate.
12. (New) A joining structure according to claim 1, wherein each tabular member serves as a fixture for one or more members to be joined.
13. (New) A joining structure according to claim 1, wherein a tabular member serves as a fixture for a secondary member.

REMARKS

This Amendment is being submitted in order to eliminate multiple dependent claims.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of the present application is new, non-obvious, and useful. Prompt consideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the title by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Versions with markings to show changes made."

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: FEB 25, 2002

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